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Control: 9698
Rec'd: November 18, 1957
6:10 a.m.

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Info

FROM: Tripoli

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 329, November 18, 11 a.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 329, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 42.

Reference: DEPTEL 399.

I share the Department's apprehension over Prime Minister's apparent misunderstanding of US role in arms assistance, although he is cantankerous type with highly-developed capacity both for misunderstanding and for choosing to misunderstand. In any event, I plan review meticulously with him US position during appointment arranged for November 20 in Benghazi. During several days there I also intend hold discussions with as many other principal Libyans as possible.

Embassy and MAAG contacts with Defense Minister and military staff have been continuous and marked by cooperative attitude on Libyan part. MAAG chief feels Muntasir understands our position and role of MAAG.

NOFORN: I have strong reason believe that Prime Minister's misunderstanding may be deliberate and possibly result of King's expressed preference for British military, with whom he has worked closely since early years World War Two. Have clear indication that during recent visit of King British CINCMELF indicated willingness recommend to London continuance British military missio...

TAPPIN

TT:BDW/1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.M.Razi DATE May 6, 1982
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